



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC MODIFIES HEARING SCHEDULE IN LACLEDE GAS COMPANY RATE CASE

Jefferson City (August 22, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has modified the hearing schedule in a natural gas rate case filed by Laclede Gas Company. The hearing schedule modification results from a partial agreement reached in this case by the PSC Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel and Laclede Gas Company.

Hearings, originally scheduled to begin on Monday, August 26th, are now scheduled to start on August 29th. Hearings will continue on August 30th. Additional hearings are scheduled for September 4th through the 6th, if necessary. These hearings will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearing.

According to the partial agreement, Laclede, the PSC Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel have reached an agreement on revenue requirement in this case. The agreement submitted for Commission consideration calls for a revenue increase of approximately \$14 million. There are a number of issues that were not agreed to and those issues will be heard by the Commission starting on August 29th. Those issues include rate design (how the revenue requirement would be distributed among the various customer classes such as residential, industrial, commercial) and weather mitigation. On January 25, 2002, Laclede Gas Company filed a \$36 million natural gas rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission.

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This rate case request represents Laclede's non-gas costs. Non-gas costs are operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or the rates that are charged to Laclede Gas Company for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Laclede Gas Company make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

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Case No. GR-2002-356